

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Front Pocket Wallet

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 Provisional Patent Application 60/430,209
 filed 2 December 2002

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not applicable

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Customary wallets are generally rectangular in shape, matching both the shape of folding money and the shape of a typical rear 15 trouser pocket. It is known that carrying such a wallet in a rear pocket, especially while seated for prolonged periods, can be a cause of back pain, sciatica and spinal misalignment, and it is thus recommended that one carry the wallet not in the rear pocket.

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BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Front pockets are often shaped differently from rear pockets, being tapered toward their closed end. The invention here is a 25 wallet which, when folded, has a tapered end to better fit such a front pocket.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows a general view of the invention, in its closed configuration.

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Figure 2 shows the invention in its open configuration.

Figure 3 shows the means of stitching or otherwise sealing the edges of the invention.

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Figure 4 shows detail features of the invention.

Figure 5 shows details of a key pocket.

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REFERENCE NUMERALS USED IN DRAWINGS

10	wallet	33	stitching line
11	fold line	34	separator panel
12	rounded tapering	35	transparent panel
20	13 shorter edge	36	frame
	14 outer panel	37	entrance slots
	15 inner panel	38	card pocket
	16 longest edge	39	internal panel
	17 end	41	fabric layer
25	21 overlapping pockets	42	fabric layer
	22 hidden pockets	43	fabric layer
	23 window pocket	44	fabric layer
	24 money pocket	45	stitching lines
	25 financial cards	51	key pocket
30	26 folding money	52	key
	31 stitching line	53	panel
	32 stitching line	54	slot

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to Figure 1, what is seen is the appearance of the wallet 10 in its normal, closed configuration folded at fold line 11. Obvious is the unilateral, rounded tapering 12 of the wallet's shorter edge 13, such that it approximates the shape of a typical trousers front pocket. Characteristic dimensions might be, for example, a width of 8 - 10 cm, an overall folded length of 12 - 15 cm, and a thickness of 1 - 3 cm, this thickness being dependent upon materials stored within the wallet. Shown also are exposed surfaces of outer panel 14 and inner panel 15, longest edge 16 and ends 17.

Figure 2 shows the wallet 10 unfolded in its open configuration, revealing a plurality of pockets 21, 22, 23, 24 from which items stored in the wallet may be easily removed and replaced. Shown also are financial cards 25, folding money 26 and a transparent window pocket 23 through which may be seen a photographic identification card, driver's license or the like.

Figure 3 shows components of the empty wallet 10 in its preferred embodiment, and further reveals stitching lines 31, 32 and 33 along which adjacent panels of material are bonded together, as by adhesive, stitched thread, thermal sealing or other means as appropriate to the chosen materials of construction. Shown separately for clarity are outer panel 14, separator panel 34, inner panel 15 and internal panel 39 which, when bonded in a preferred sequence and folded form the wallet 10 itself.

The invention, in its preferred embodiment, is constructed primarily from natural or artificial leather, and sewn together using heavy-duty sewing thread. Individual panels are typically die cut to size and to include any slits, slots or other openings as may be needed in these panels. Similarly, panels of transparent or opaque plastic or other fabric may be cut to shape

for adding to the construction.

Stitching or other means of fastening is used for fastening together pairs or multiple layers of panels. In a simple form of 5 the preferred embodiment, a leather outer panel 14, an intermediate cloth fabric separator panel 34 and a leather inner panel 15 are matched superjacently and sewn together entirely along their longest edge 16, and thence sewn upward along their edges at each end 17 for a distance of 2 - 3 cm. This forms two 10 money pockets 24, one between the outer panel 14 and the separator panel 34, and the other between the separator panel 34 and the inner panel 15, each of which may be used separately to contain folding money 26 and for other flexible thin materials such as receipts, notes or the like.

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Transparent window pocket 23 is preassembled to the exposed surface of the inner panel 15, and is preferably constructed of a colorless, transparent panel 35 of flexible polymeric sheet material such as vinyl, polycarbonate or the like stitched inside 20 a surrounding frame 36 of leather material which in turn is stitched along three of its edges to the exposed surface of the inner panel 15. The edge of frame 36 left unstitched is parallel and adjacent to the fold line 11 of the wallet 10, such that a photographic identification card may be inserted under 25 transparent panel 35 when the wallet 10 is fully open, yet is protected from loss when the wallet 10 is folded closed. Under the transparent panel 35, the photograph is readily visible without removing the card from the transparent window pocket 23.

30 In the preferred embodiment there is also a series of overlapping pockets 21 preassembled on the hidden surface of the inner leather panel 15, facing the transparent window pocket 23 when wallet 10 is folded closed, for containing and protecting 35 multiple additional financial cards 25 or the like. The entrance slots 37 to these pockets 21 are shown positioned such that the

financial cards 25 are inserted and removed horizontally, although overlapping pockets 21 may alternatively be constructed rotated 90 degrees clockwise for conventional vertical loading.

5 Further in a more desired form of the preferred embodiment, four additional card pockets 38 are preassembled, two on each of two leather internal panels 39, for containing flat, rigid objects such as financial cards 25, calculators or the like. These additional card pockets 38 are sewn to the inner, exposed
10 surfaces of internal panels 39 along three of each such pocket's four edges, leaving open the pocket's edge adjacent to the wallet's shorter edge 13 for insertion or removal of such objects. The hidden surfaces of internal panels 39 are then stitched around their entire perimeter to the hidden surfaces of
15 outer panel 14 and of inner panel 15 along stitching line 31.

Additionally, in the preferred embodiment, there is a hidden pocket 22 under each of the transparent window pocket 23 and the set of overlapping pockets 21. The entrance slot 37 to each of
20 these hidden pockets 22 is both parallel and adjacent to the fold line 11 of the wallet 10, such that thin flat items such as photographs, eyeglass prescriptions or business cards may be inserted into these hidden pockets 22 horizontally. A preferred method for inserting would be to preload a multitude of such
25 items in a sleeve or envelope, constructed from a low-friction material such as polymeric plastic film, such that the items are protected from buckling damage during insertion and withdrawal.

Figure 4 examines several details of these features on the hidden
30 surface of inner panel 15 in the preferred embodiment, such as pockets for storage, windows for viewing, and the like. Shown is the hidden side of stitching line 33 for window pocket 23 and four fabric layers 41, 42, 43 and 44, secured by stitching lines 45 to form overlapping pockets 21. Also shown are entrance slots
35 37 which serve as the loading points for hidden pockets 22.

And finally, in a preferred embodiment there is provided a key pocket 51, preferably accessible within the folding money pocket 24, for hidden storage of a key 52. Such a key pocket 51 may be formed by a separate panel 53 stitched to an exposed surface of 5 internal panels 39 or to either surface of separator panel 34, or it alternatively may be provided as a simple slot 54 in one or more of internal panels 39.

Though the above description is of necessity specific, the scope 10 of the invention should be determined by the appended claims rather than by any specific embodiments recited here.